

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 5825, ELECTRONIC SUR-
VEILLANCE MODERNIZATION
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the previous question. This do-nothing Republican Congress plans to adjourn without taking action on the issues facing American families. It is outrageous that instead of addressing our national security and economic security, Republicans are focused on scoring cheap political points that benefit special interests, further divide this country, and put us at greater risk.

Families—not big oil companies—need relief from the economic squeeze most are facing. This year we see the cost of health care, energy and education going up while wages stagnate. Our economic growth depends on an investment in our future and on recognizing that hard working, middle class Americans are the engine of our economy. It is also outrageous that 5 years after the tragedy of September 11, Republican leadership has failed to make the necessary investment in Homeland Security, preferring instead to continue to provide unaffordable tax cuts to corporations.

Democrats have proposed 5 actions that this Congress can take that will make a real difference in the lives of families.

This Congress should not adjourn without increasing the minimum wage. Republicans voted to increase our pay by \$31,600 this year but have refused a pay raise for the 15 million hardworking Americans making the minimum wage.

We must allow the Federal Government to negotiate for best price for pharmaceutical drugs on behalf of American seniors, persons with disabilities and taxpayers. This will significantly lower the cost of drugs, providing for resources that we use to fill the doughnut hole and finally provide the comprehensive coverage our seniors have been fighting for.

In order to ensure our global competitiveness, Congress should reverse the raid on student aid by replacing the \$12 billion cut earlier this year to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest.

This summer gas was over \$3 dollars a gallon. And while we are feeling some relief now, clearly it is temporary. At the same time, oil and gas companies are enjoying record profits at the expense of the American taxpayer. It is time that this Congress insist on an energy plan that benefits families and decreases our dependence on foreign oil. Lets roll back tax breaks for Big Oil and invest those dollars in alternative fuels.

And to keep America safe, Republicans should stop blocking the full implementation of the 9/11 Commission recommendations and commit the resources necessary to secure our borders, ports, airports and chemical facilities. Instead of simply scaring Americans with talk of a terrorist attack, Democrats want to take real steps to keep American families safe.

Mr. Speaker, America needs a new direction. By voting against the previous question I am voting for initiatives that will promote economic growth and provide real security. I urge

my colleagues to reject the politics of cynicism and fear and to work together to move this country forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, on September 28, I inadvertently voted "no" on rollcall 503, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act. Please let the record reflect that I enter an "aye" vote on this rollcall.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO
KELIIHOALANI MITCHELL

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Kelihoalani Mitchell of Aurora, CO. Ms. Mitchell has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation's Capitol. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Ms. Mitchell has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Kelihoalani Mitchell, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION
NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 403.

S. 403 makes it a Federal crime for anyone other than a young woman's parent to take her across State lines for an abortion unless the parental notification and involvement requirements of her home State have been met. In States without a current parental notification law, the Federal law applies. This legislation also requires a physician to notify, in person, the parents from another State about a medical procedure the doctor will be performing.

I will continue to work to do more to reduce abortion, but this is the wrong approach. Criminalizing health care providers and clergy while further victimizing young women who are already facing major challenges will not reduce abortions, will not reduce teen pregnancy, and will certainly not help to protect young women in this country. It is unfortunate that this legislation does not contain a judicial bypass process for young women who cannot, through no fault of their own, discuss this issue with their parents, as in cases of abuse or incest. This

bill even criminalizes a victim's support network, the grandparents, aunts and uncles, adult siblings, religious counselors, and other trusted adults whom a young woman might turn to for help in this time of crisis. It also requires doctors to know the notification laws in all 50 States or face criminal penalties. S. 403 undermines Minnesota's authority, forcing all States to comply with and enforce other States' laws.

This legislation is opposed by a wide variety of individuals and organizations including physicians, public health experts, women's organizations, religious groups, and think tanks. Simply put, S. 403 imposes significant barriers to young women's emotional and physical health. The reality is that marginalizing and isolating these vulnerable young women will not protect them in their time of need, but rather force them to seek risky and unsafe ways to terminate their pregnancy. Instead, we must do more to support families and to work to reduce unwanted pregnancies through comprehensive education, adoption assistance, and family planning.

Mr. Speaker, S. 403 is a dangerous bill, harmful to those young women most in need of help. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this legislation, which poses a serious threat to young women's access to safe reproductive health choices.

THE R.S. 2477 RIGHTS-OF-WAY
RECOGNITION ACT

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce "The R.S. 2477 Rights-of-Way Recognition Act." I am introducing this legislation to advance the dialogue on an issue very important to my constituents and many other stakeholders, particularly in the western United States.

R.S. 2477 Rights-of-Way were originally granted by the 1866 Mining Law. However, in 1976 with the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act or FLPMA, the R.S. 2477 statute was repealed while grandfathering in existing claims. Since the passage the FLPMA and its repeal of R.S. 2477, a long-standing dispute regarding these grandfathered claims has persisted with the validity of these rights-of-way remaining in doubt.

The purpose of my bill is to remove this cloud, once and for all, by declaring that State and local governments hold valid rights-of-way for all public roads that were documented on government maps and photographs at the time the FLPMA's grandfather clause was enacted.

Everyone must clearly understand the scope of this legislation. It does not establish new claims or to provide a method by which any party may to build roads or improvements on claims not valid under FLPMA. Instead, this legislation intends to reaffirm the rights and responsibilities of State and local governments to the rights-of-way that Congress intended they retain when passing FLPMA.

Thus, any attempt to construe this legislation as an endeavor to create a system of superhighways through public lands is just plain

wrong. This bill draws from the landmark decision by the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit concerning the nature of an R.S. 2477 right of way, the meaning of unreserved federal land for R.S. 2477 purposes, and the principles governing the creation, nature, extent, use and maintenance of R.S. 2477 public roads.

Supporters of this legislation should keep in mind that the bill I am introducing today is not the conclusive end this controversy. Today's introduction marks the start of a dialogue that I hope leads to a comprehensive solution and eventually a victory for all the stakeholders; a victory that protects our public lands, the rights of property owners, and the legitimate interests of Federal, State, and local governments.

As we close the 109th Congress, let us each strive to work together to solve some of our most divisive public lands issues. Doing so requires engaging all parties through dialogue, creativity and persistence so that we may find common sense solutions that will meet the needs of the American public.

OCTOBER 3RD PROCLAIMED
"SCIENCE DAY"

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the important role science plays in our society. Today, October 3, has been proclaimed "Science Day" by Missouri Governor Matt Blunt along with various mayors throughout southern Missouri.

"Science Day" is important because American innovation depends upon a strong foundation in the sciences. Statistics indicate the United States is falling behind other nations in science education. Japan, China, and South Korea produce more engineering graduates than the United States. Twenty years ago, the United States, Japan, and China each graduated a similar number of engineers. South Korea at the time graduated roughly half as many engineering graduates. By the year 2000, China increased engineering graduates by 161 percent, Japan effected a 42 percent increase and South Korea increased graduates by more than 140 percent. Meanwhile, the number of U.S. engineering graduates declined 20 percent. If this trend continues, by 2010 more than 90 percent of all scientists and engineers in the world will live in Asia.

Science and technology-related employers continue searching overseas to find qualified engineers and scientists because our Nation is simply not producing enough graduates in the engineering and science disciplines. "Science Day" aims to bring attention to this problem and encourage action among parents, teachers and community members.

Science not only offers economic and advancement opportunity, it is also fun and exciting. Inside and outside the classroom, science offers an awe-inspiring window into the origins, workings and future of our physical world. By engaging students in this intriguing subject, parents and teachers foster exploration and enable them to reach their academic potential.

I commend this effort to raise awareness of the importance of science educators. I want to

thank the staff at KFVS News for their efforts in promoting the recognition of "Science Day." By partnering with educators and community leaders, KFVS News has organized events and competitions designed to challenge students and emphasize the importance of science. On "Science Day," I join Missouri's community leaders in challenging our Nation's parents, guardians, grandparents, and other family members to do a simple science experiment with their children, to honor science teachers in their community and to recognize scientific contributions and their important roles in the future of our country.

RECOGNIZING FINANCIAL
PLANNING WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support for House Resolution 973—recognizing Financial Planning Week. Now more than ever, working families need the tools and resources to make sound financial decisions.

American families are struggling with financial burdens—from growing student loan and credit card debts to increasing interest rates. Flattened wages and negative savings rates mean that too many families have to choose between sending their children to college and saving for retirement.

The financial situation for most American families is grim. In fact in 2005—for the first time since the Great Depression—the personal savings rate of Americans was negative. Americans have depleted their savings to pay off debt and to simply make ends meet. This is a dangerous trend for Americans that must be reversed.

That is why financial planning is more critical than ever. Americans need the tools and resources to know how to save for a variety of life opportunities and situations—including retirement, college, starting a new business, and buying a first home. Many families simply need assistance with budgeting for everyday needs. I commend the financial institutions that have included in their business models financial planning assistance for their customers. These institutions help to strengthen the economic situation for our communities and families.

What is unfortunate is that this Republican Congress has done little to provide relief to struggling families. Instead, families are being squeezed—flat wages, increased costs of health care, skyrocketing prices at the gas pump, and double digit college tuition increases. In nearly every aspect of life, American families are faced with financial burdens and tough budget decisions.

Congress could benefit from better financial planning—America deserves a Government that knows how to model good budget decisions. Unfortunately, this Republican Congress has led our Government into a negative savings rate—spending and borrowing more than our Nation can afford—while passing budgets that benefit the Nation's wealthiest while short-changing hardworking, middle class families.

Today, I rise to support this important resolution. I will continue to work to support legis-

lation that will encourage working families to save for their futures and to ensure that working families have the resources to make sound budget decisions.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
STATEMENT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the month-long celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, we pay tribute to the Hispanic community and to the important contributions Hispanics make to America. Today the Hispanic-American community numbers some 43 million, is the fastest growing ethnic group in our country, and plays a vital part in our nation's economy, culture, and politics.

That's why I'm so proud in Congress to be a member of both the Hispanic Working Group organized by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, and of the Tri-Caucus, which is the collection of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, and the Asian Pacific American Caucus that advocate for the Latino community.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent a thriving and accomplished Latino community in the 9th Congressional District of California, where the contributions of Latino members of the community are stronger than ever.

For example, throughout the past 37 years, the Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation has empowered our community and improved the quality of life for many through an enormous range of services. Each year the foundation assists 12,000 members of the community through providing vital social services as well as enhancing opportunities for leadership development and civic participation.

Jovita Solis, the foundation's Citizenship Coordinator, came to the United States when she was quite young and has made a tremendous difference in our community. Jovita routinely volunteers her time at numerous community events to encourage and assist many permanent residents to become naturalized citizens. Jovita has an indomitable spirit that was tested when her brother was murdered only 3 years ago. Jovita came out of her brother's death with a purpose to make our community safer and to help our youths turn away from violence and crime. Jovita has spearheaded many youth initiatives to help our young people stay in school and encourage their pursuits in the arts and sports.

Another community leader creating a better world is Arnoldo Garcia. Arnoldo is the Enforcement and Justice Program Coordinator at the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR), based in Oakland, California.

The NNIRR is a national organization that serves as a forum to share information and analysis, to educate communities and the general public, and to develop and coordinate plans of action on important immigrant and refugee issues.

Arnoldo works to promote a just immigration and refugee policy in the United States and to defend and expand the rights of all immigrants